

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA  
TAMPA DIVISION**

FREDDIE CRAYTON,

Petitioner,

v.

Case No. 8:23-cv-1204-WFJ-MRM

SECRETARY, DEPARTMENT OF  
CORRECTIONS,

Respondent.

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**ORDER**

Freddie Crayton, a former Florida prisoner, initiated this action by filing a document titled “Motion for Reconsideration Requested Recusal.” (Doc. 1). Mr. Crayton asks this Court to “grant a motion to recuse” Judge Nelly Khouzam from an appeal he filed in the Second District Court of Appeal. (*Id.* at 26). He also raises several challenges to his 2003 convictions for sexual offenses. (*Id.* at 1-2, 5-26). Upon review, this action must be dismissed without prejudice.

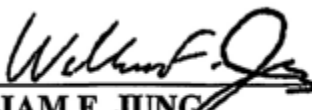
First, this Court lacks the authority to order the recusal of a state-court judge. *See, e.g., Shapiro v. Ingram*, 207 F. App’x 938, 940 (11th Cir. 2006) (holding that plaintiff’s requested “injunctive relief”—reversal of state-court orders regarding recusal—would “unduly interfere with state-court proceedings”); *Greene v. Raffensperger*, 599 F. Supp. 3d 1283, 1302 (N.D. Ga. 2022) (noting that federal courts routinely abstain from “cases where

plaintiffs seek federal injunctions requiring the recusal of state-court judges” (collecting cases)).

Second, to the extent that Mr. Crayton seeks to collaterally attack his 2003 convictions, the Court lacks jurisdiction to adjudicate those challenges. Mr. Crayton previously sought—and was denied—federal habeas relief regarding the 2003 convictions, *Crayton v. Sec’y, Dep’t of Corr.*, No. 8:14-cv-2234-CEH-MAP, 2017 WL 4310266, at \*1 (M.D. Fla. Sept. 28, 2017), and he has not shown that he received authorization from the Eleventh Circuit to file a second or successive habeas petition. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 2244(b)(3)(A); *Gilreath v. State Bd. of Pardons & Paroles*, 273 F.3d 932, 933 (11th Cir. 2001).

Accordingly, this action is **DISMISSED without prejudice**. The **CLERK** is directed to **CLOSE** this case and to send Mr. Crayton a copy of the Eleventh Circuit’s form for second or successive habeas corpus petitions under 28 U.S.C. § 2244(b).

**DONE and ORDERED** in Tampa, Florida, on June 1, 2023.

  
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**WILLIAM F. JUNG**  
**UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE**